

9 November 1973

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Deputy Director for Intelligence

**SUBJECT :** Comments on Proposed Intelligence Product Review Panel

1. This Panel is a good idea. There is little question that the Directorate needs systematic evaluation and feedback for its finished intelligence.

2. Some suggestions:

a. The work of the Panel might well become complex enough that the proposed 3-month rotation of all members except the Chairman would not provide adequate continuity. A possible alternate system would be to name Panel members initially for 3, 4, and 5-month (or 2, 3, and 4-month) tours with replacements thereafter named for standard 3-month tours. This would ensure an experienced membership at all times.

b. OBGI, and possibly other DDI components, will have trouble furnishing personnel at GS-14 and up full-time for such extended periods of time. Since our grade structure still views the "senior analyst" as a GS-13, it would be helpful if GS-13's were also made acceptable for nomination to the Panel where the individual is demonstrably well qualified. There are increasing demands on us to spin off top talent for full- or part-time jobs not related to OBGI production -- training, MAG, management committees, etc.

c. Since maps and charts are integral components of most Agency products, it might be well to include a graphics expert as part-time member of the Panel.

d. I feel a need for better advised guidance on what projects we are permitted to undertake. I'm not sure that the Panel could provide it. But it might be useful to charge the Panel with making recommendations for projects, or at least with reviewing and commenting on proposed research projects submitted to the DDI.

3. I can foresee a number of snags to avoid or overcome in implementing the idea, i.e. relations with IC Staff, how to get useful feedback from the so-called customers, insuring that the Panel members take the broad view of what's useful rather than the kind of localitis characteristic of OCI and OER. Another matter might best be put as a question: How will the Panel determine the adequacy of sources, the thoroughness of analysis, and the proper treatment of alternative positions without re-researching the project or employing some independent expert in the field?

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